

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of April 9 - April 13, 2007**

1. **Poems on Posters:** The "Spring For Poetry in Takoma Park" project has placed 34 poems on posters at different locations in Takoma Park in celebration of National Poetry Month. The urban poetry walk was organized by Ann Slayton and Merrill Leffler, with assistance and support from Claire Garmon, Frank Gallant, the Friends of the Library, the Art Department of Montgomery College, students at Columbia Union College and Takoma Park's Department of Public Works and the Takoma Park Library. Lists of the poems and their locations (as well as books containing works of many of the poets) may be picked up at the Library and will soon be available on the Friends and Library web pages. (*Library*)

2. **Arbor Day:** The annual celebration will be held on Saturday from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. at the Library grounds. In the event of rain, things will be moved into the community center lobby. Tree seedlings will be available. Participants include the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the National Park Service, the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment, The Takoma Park Horticultural Club, Friends of Sligo Creek and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Various exhibits and discussions will take place through out the event. (*Public Works*)

3. **Electronics Recycling Event:** Please mark the date of April 21 on your calendar! On that day, from 10:00a.m. to 1:30p.m., you can bring old computer components and electronic equipment to the Library parking lot for recycling and disposal. Accepted items include telephones, cameras, radios, TV's (non console type only), stereos, CD players, tape players, scanners, copiers, fax machines, surge protectors and any computer related equipment (mouse, keyboard, CPU, monitors, modems, speakers, etc). (*Public Works*)

4. **What's Happening in PD?:**

- On April 10, Chief Ricucci attended A Speed Camera Leadership meeting in Rockville which is in preparation for future speed camera usage in Takoma Park. On April 11, the Chief met with Assistant Chief Walker and Capt. Gillespie of the Montgomery County Department of Police, Special Investigations Division, to foster a stronger working relationship relating to Narcotics Enforcement in and around Takoma Park. On Thursday, the Chief attended a community meeting at Victory Towers to meet members of the community and listen to their concerns.

- On April 11, Lt. Collington attended National Crime Information Computer re-certification in Pikesville, Maryland. On April 11 and 12, Lt. Cipperly attended training titled "Managing the Uniform Patrol Unit" sponsored by Benchmark Professional Services.

- On April 11, Chief Ricucci promoted Pvt. Thomas Black to the rank of Private First Class. (*Police*)

5. **Charges Made:** On April 11th, the Criminal Investigations Division charged a Takoma Park resident with one count of 3rd degree sex offense relating to a sexual assault which occurred on this date and was reported by a previous acquaintance. (*Police*)

6. **High Visibility Patrol:** In response to recent incidents along Maple Avenue, the Criminal Investigations and Patrol Divisions initiated a high visibility patrol and

enforcement initiative in this area which resulted in two arrests, 38 state traffic citations and warnings, and two safety equipment repair orders issued. Five individuals found loitering without a purpose were also formerly posted for trespassing. The final totals will be announced in a press release later this evening. *(Police)*

**7. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 1, 4, & 6):** Officers conducted at least 117 traffic stops this week, 103 of which ended in written citations, and one impound. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Carroll and Maple Avenues. *(Police)*

**8. Traffic Calming Project (Ward 6):** The construction of sidewalks, and a traffic circle at the intersection of Glenside Drive and Wildwood Drive began this week. Work is expected to be completed on the concrete portion next week. *(Public Works)*

**9. Street Restoration (Ward 2):** Elm Avenue from Ethan Allen Avenue to Devonshire Road is scheduled to be resurfaced on Wednesday, April 18. Flyers will be distributed to affected homes prior to the work and "No Parking" signs will be posted. *(Public Works)*

**10. Council Compensation Committee:** The eight residents appointed to serve on the 2007 Council Compensation Committee are ready to begin their work. Their first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 7:00p.m., in the Community Center Atrium Room. The Committee is scheduled to report back to the Council on July 2. *(City Clerk's Office)*

**11. Council Chambers Renovation:** An RFP was issued on March 30 for "Architectural Services in Connection with the Proposed Renovation of Council Chambers" and a pre-bid tour was held this week on April 10. A number of firms sent representatives. Bids are due April 23. *(CityTV)*

**12. What's on CityTV?:** The April Snapshots features: Recreation Department's Afternoon Addition; a promotional piece produced by the PEG Network with information about all the public, educational and government access channels available to cable subscribers in Montgomery County; and, an interview with new Police Chief Ron Ricucci. *(City TV)*

**13. Proposed Budget:** The 2008 Proposed Budget was posted to the website this week. *(CityTV)*

**14. Master Plan Workshops (City-Wide):** The last of the Master Plan workshops hosted by the Housing and Community Development Department was held on Thursday, April 12. Staff will compile and evaluate the recommendations received from each of the workshops to determine their feasibility and identify possible funding sources. An open house will be held in early May to share the suggested improvements with the community. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Save the Date - Plan to Volunteer! Main Street Takoma Spring Clean-up Day (Wards 1 and 3):** Consider volunteering for the Main Street Takoma Design Committee's second annual Spring Clean-up Day. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 28 from 9am-12noon to help spruce up Old Takoma from Takoma Junction to 4th Street NW. For more information or to sponsor the event, please contact [designcommittee@takomamainstreet.org](mailto:designcommittee@takomamainstreet.org). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Adopt-A-Tree Program (Ward 1 and Ward 3):** The Design Committee of Main Street Takoma is going into the second year of the "Adopt-A-Tree" program in Old Town and Takoma Junction. Business owners and residents are encouraged to "adopt" trees in the Main Street area right-of-way. Participants are asked to water their adopted trees and pick up litter from now until October. They will receive their very own watering bucket and a personalized "adoption" marker in return for a small donation. For more information please contact Main Street Takoma at (240) 253-4229 or [designcommittee@mainstreettakoma.org](mailto:designcommittee@mainstreettakoma.org). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**17. Ethan Allen Gateway Charrette (Ward 2):** The City's solicitation for proposals for the Ethan Allen Gateway Charrette concluded Thursday, April 12th. Four proposals were received. Staff will be reviewing each of the submissions and forwarding its recommendations to the Council for consideration on Monday, April 23. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**18. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6):** Tenants residing at 7900 Kennewick Avenue (4 units) received a notice that the property is being sold to a third party for \$570,000. The affected tenants were informed of their right to purchase under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law and encouraged to contact Housing staff for more assistance in evaluating their options under the law. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**19. New Exhibit at the Community Center (City-wide):** The Arts and Humanities Commission encourages you to stop by the Community Center to see the new exhibit in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries. The exhibit - entitled Takoma Park: Victorian to Vibrant - features the work of artists participating in Art Enables, an arts-and-enterprise program for adults with developmental and/or mental disabilities from throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. The exhibit runs through the month of April. *(Housing and Community Development Department)*

**20. Poetry Reading - Open Mic (City-wide):** Consider reading your work - and hearing the work of other local poets - this coming Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 pm in the Community Center. The open reading, hosted by Poet Laureate Don Berger, is part of a monthly poetry reading series supported by the Arts and Humanities Commission. The reading is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**21. Safe Routes to School Workshops (City-wide):** The Safe Routes to School program provides federal grant funds for projects which increase the number of children who walk and bicycle safely to and from school. The City received funding from this program for a number of projects during the last grant cycle and is interested in applying for additional funds. In preparation for this round of funding, the City will be hosting two workshops next week to identify projects which might qualify for funding. The workshops will be held on Monday, April 16th (6:30 - 8:30 pm) and again on Tuesday, April 17th (6:30 PM to 8:30 PM) at the Community Center. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**22. The Favorite Poem:** Submissions for the 9th annual Favorite Poem Evening will be accepted through April 20. Choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet other than you or your friends. Send the title of the poem and its author and your name and generic occupation to Ellen Robbins at [ellenr@takomagov.org](mailto:ellenr@takomagov.org) for inclusion in a printed program. Refreshments are provided by the Friends of the Library and all are

invited to attend this community event in celebration of National Poetry Month. The Favorite Poem Evening will be held in the Library on Thursday April 26th. At 7:30 p.m. (Library)

**23. What to Read:** The Friends Reading Group will next meet on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center to discuss "White Noise" by Don DeLillo. All are welcome. (Library)

**24. Mayor Testifies:** Mayor Kathy Porter presented the testimony of the City of Takoma Park on the proposed FY08 Montgomery County Budget before the County Council on April 10. (Community & Government Liaison)

**25. General Assembly Session Ends:** Monday, April 9 was the final day of the Maryland General Assembly. Money and the environment were the major topics. Many desirable programs were not funded due to budget constraints. The House Appropriations Committee gave an "unfavorable report" to all bond bill requests, including Takoma Park's request for gym funding. However, funding for school construction was retained. The "clean cars" bill and Statewide smoking restrictions were approved. City staff wishes to thank our District 20 representatives and their staffs for their hard work on our behalf! (Community & Government Liaison)

**26. Around the World in 5 Days:** During the week of April 2 - 6, 2007, Takoma Park Recreation Department took 38 kids from grades K to 5 on an adventure around the world. This year's Spring Break Camp gave each child a passport to a different country each day of the week: Monday - Jamaica and Bahamas, Tuesday - India, Wednesday - Turkey, Thursday - Peru, and Friday - Japan. For each country, the children were introduced to some language, games, activities, crafts and presenters. The week was topped off with a swimming trip to Rollingcrest Splash Pool. (Recreation)

**27. Spring Has Sprung in Takoma Park:** Takoma Park teens spent their spring break experiencing new activities and traveling to fun places. "Spring Bling" was a week of activities, April 2 - April 6, targeting youth from 6th to 12th grade. Youth spent time roller skating, tagging each other with paint balls, playing laser tag, and riding go-carts. The teens also spent one day during that week at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, with the week ending at the movie theater and ESPN Sport Zone in Washington, D.C. The new bus provided transportation for the trips during the week. The Takoma Park Recreation Department was able to provide serve more youth because of the increased seating the bus provided. The bus was full to capacity for every trip! The teens in Takoma Park were a great example of the "Get Out and Play" motto! (Recreation)